

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01444 050851Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /109 W  
-----019104 050857Z /10

R 050800Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8906  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS MASERU 1444

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR PGOV LT SF CU  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL LEADER DISCUSSES LESOTHO'S RELATIONS WITH  
CUBA AND SOUTH AFRICA

1. SUMMARY: ON JUNE 28, 1978, MR. A.C. MANYELI, A FORMER  
CABINET MINISTER AND AN OUTSPOKEN MEMBER OF THE RULING  
PARTY, B.N.P., HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE TOUCHED  
UPON LESOTHO'S RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND SOUTH AFRICA.  
END SUMMARY.

2. REGARDING CUBA, MANYELI SAID THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT  
IN THE MINDS OF THE BASOTHO THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE RECENT  
VISIT OF CUBAN DIPLOMATS IN LESOTHO. MANYELI WENT ON  
TO STATE THAT FONMIN C.D. POLAPO HAD GONE TO MAPUTO WITH  
THE CUBAN DELEGATION IN ORDER TO CONCLUDE THE TALKS ON  
ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. MANYELI SAID HE FEELS  
THAT SUCH AN ACTION WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS  
OF THE BASOTHO.

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3. MANYELI REITERATED ONE OF HIS FAVORITE THEMES: THE  
NEED FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HE ACCUSED  
GOL OF UNDERTAKING "VERY PROVOCATIVE" ACTIONS TOWARDS  
SAG. ONE OF THE MORE BLATANT EXAMPLES OF THIS, ACCORDING  
TO MANYELI, IS GOL'S DECISION TO HOST THE U.N. SYMPOSIUM  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA (SCHEDULE FOR LATE  
JULY 1978). HE CONDEMNED RADIO LESOTHO FOR BROADCASTING

A LARGE AMOUNT OF ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS, SAYING "IT IS EASY TO CHANGE FRIENDS BUT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CHANGE NEIGHBORS". HE STRESSED THAT WHILE ABHORRING COLOR DISCRIMINATION, THE ECONOMIC REALITIES HAD TO BE ACCEPTED AS REASON FOR COOPERATION AND PEACEFUL AND GOOD NEIGHBORLY COEXISTENCE.

4. COMMENT: MANYELI IS FREQUENTLY IN THE NEWS AS A CRITIC OF GOL. HIS VIEWS PROBABLY ARE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE VIEWS OF THE MORE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN LESOTHO. END COMMENT.  
STOKES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Draft Date:** 05 jul 1978  
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